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REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are now pending.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as containing the informalities set forth on Page 2 of the Office Action. Although there appears to be sufficient clarity and antecedence for the expressions noted by the Examiner, the Applicants have attempted to amend the claims, without narrowing their scope, to address the Examiner's concerns.

Claims 1-10, and 12-16 were rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki, et al., U.S. 6,742,147 (Sasaki) in view of Dimitri, et al., U.S. 6,574,424 (Dimitri). The Applicants traverse as follows.

An important feature of the present invention is the ability to render a recording-limited area of a recording medium recordable by canceling a recording limit in the recording-limited area. Claim 1 sets forth a recording method comprising steps for making the recording-limited area recordable. Claim 11 sets forth a method of decrypting information, including a step in which information about the position of encrypted information is decrypted. Claim 13 sets

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forth a recording medium comprising a recording-limited area, wherein the recording limit is canceled.

In particular, the method of Claim 1 includes a set of providing a recording medium with a recording-limited area, wherein the recording-limited area is defined as being an area in which recording is limited. The recording-limited area is "recognized as a defective area." The recording limit in the recording-limited area is canceled so that recording of information in the recording-limited area can be performed. The method also includes a step of recording new information in the recording-limited area.

In rejecting Claim 1 over the combination of Sasaki and Dimitri, the Examiner cites Sasaki as disclosing a step of detecting a defective sector included in a user area, referring to Column 5, lines 24-25. Indeed, Sasaki detects a defective sector, and replaces the defective sector with a spare area located radially inward from the user area.

However, the defective sector is removed from use by the method of Sasaki. In contrast, Claim 1 requires that the recording-limited area which is "recognized" as a defective area, nevertheless is rendered recordable by canceling the recording limit in the recording-limited area so that recording of information in the recording-limited area can be

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performed. Then, the step of recording new information in the recording-limited area is required by the method. Sasaki, of course, cannot perform this final step of recording the new information because the defective sector has been removed from use. Accordingly, Sasaki does not teach, at least, the canceling and recording steps of Claim 1.

The secondary reference to Dimitri is cited simply as teaching a method for storing commercials on DVDs. Thus, the combination of Sasaki and Dimitri is seen to teach a method for recording information including commercials, wherein defective sectors are removed from use. Claim 1 is thus not met by the combination.

Similarly, the recording medium set forth in Claim 13 is not met by the combination, which does not teach or fairly suggest a recording-limited area which is recording-limited so as to be "recognized as a defective area, wherein the recording limit is canceled by reading predetermined information." The Applicants note that the change from "prescribed information" to --predetermined information-- is not meant to narrow the scope of the claim, but rather to address a concern of formality by adopting language consistent among the claims.

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Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki and Dimitri in view of Uesaka, et al., U.S. 6,044,157 (Uesaka). Uesaka is cited as describing "a method/system that teaches encrypted data from an optical disk such as DVD." Uesaka, however, does not teach a method of encrypting information including a step of providing and recording medium comprising a recording/limited area which is recognized as a defective area and information about the position of the recording-limited area in encrypted form. Rather, as noted by the Examiner, Column 20, lines 11-12 of Uesaka simply disclose that control unit 37 reads encrypted MPEG data from DVD-ROM 31 to main memory 374 by issuing an instruction to disk reproduction drive 35. It is noted that the Applicants do not assert to be the first to read encrypted data from a DVD-ROM. Rather, the novelty and non-obviousness of the invention lies in the combination of method steps discussed above. Further, the information about the position of the recording-limited area, stored in an encrypted form on the recording medium, does not coincide with the MPEG data read by Uesaka.

Further notable is that Sasaki and Dimitri, as applied to Claims 1-10, and 12-16, do not support the rejection in that neither patent discloses a recording medium that comprises a

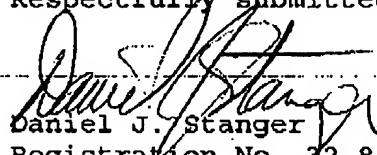
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recording-limited area which is recognized as a defective area and information about the position of the recording-limited area in an encrypted form. Thus, even in combination with Uesaka, Sasaki and Dimitri do not lead the person of ordinary skill to the invention as claimed in Claim 11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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